# II. *Two Hiſtories of* Internal Cancers, *and of what appeared upon Diſſection, by* William Burton, *M. D.*

## I.

*Read* May 13. 1742.

*Windſor, May* 22. 1734.

*Bartholomew Collins*, a Labourer in the King's Works at *Windſor*, of low Stature, pale Complexion, ſlender and active, aged about 36 Years, temperate in his manner of Living, had, for ſome Years, been afflicted at different times with wandering arthritic, colic, and nephritic Pains, none of which were periodical or conſtant. During this Term, when in beſt Health, he was uſually coſtive, and his Urine, as ſoon as made, depoſited a *calculous* Sediment.

In *March* 1733. he received a violent Blow by a ponderous and obtuſe Inſtrument on his Loins, together with the Spine of the *Os Innominatum*, towards the Left Side, which diſabled him for that Day; on the next, the Pain abating, he continued ſo well for Six Months after, as not even to recollect this Accident, till about a Month before his Death, although he was often asked by the Phyſician, Whether that Part had ever ſuffered a Contuſion.

In *January* following, he complained of an excruciating Pain, extending from the aforeſaid Spine to the ſpurious Ribs on the Left Side, which ſometimes attacked alſo the Inteſtines; whence he became continually reſtleſs, eſpecially in the Night, and, toſſing the Bedcloaths off, frequently lay naked.



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He could not now lie upon his Back or Left, *viz.* the affected Side, but lay always on his Right Side, leaning on his Right Elbow. In *April* 1734. his Left Knee, from a Contraction of the Muſcles elevating it, was always drawn up towards the *Abdomen*, inſomuch that he could not ſtand upright. His Left *Teſticle*, formerly leſs than the Right, was now become ſcirrhous, and increaſed to double the Magnitude of this, and the Left Spermatic Veſſels felt like a knotty Chord. A ſort of Hectic Fever attended him, the Exacerbation of which, as well as of his Pains, was generally about Noon, and Six in the Evening.——He had no Sleep of Nights without a Paregoric.——Though his Appetite failed him, he had no Propenſity to vomit, nor complained of Thirſt. His Reſpiration and Urine were not amiſs.——His Pains were always exaſperated by the Uſe of heating Medicines; and whenever the Pain ſeized the Inteſtines, terebinthinate Clyſters increaſed them, whereas emollient and refrigerating ones mitigated them; by the Uſe of which he had daily one or two Stools. ——The Fœces were of a middling Conſiſtence, lightly tinged with Bile.——The Blood frequently taken away by *V. S.* in ſmall Quantities, had always a thick, tough, ſizy Buff-like pleuritic Coat; and at firſt, from each ſeveral Bleeding, he found Relief.

*January* 4. 1733-4. The Apothecary firſt adminiſtered to him, for the Colic, *Elect. Lenitiv. & Pulv. Diaſen. Ol. Junip.* and emollient Clyſters. Three Days after, Pains ſeizing his Left Side, and the *Sphincter Veſicæ*, they were removed by repeated Bleedings, and *Decoct. Hord. & Lap. Prunel.* and *Syr. Althææ*. On the 12th, he complained of a Heat

Heat about the *Regio Pubis*, with Coſtiveneſs; but by the Uſe of *Sal. Mirab. Glaub. Lap. Prunel. Manna*, emollient Decoctions with *Sp. Nitr. d. & Elect. Lenitiv. pro re nata*, continued tolerably eaſy till the 24th, when the erratic Pains returning, and not yielding to the aforeſaid Apozems, on the 26th the Phyſician firſt conſulted gave him *Sperm. Cet. Sal. C. C. & pulv. e Chel.* and *Sp. C. C.* but theſe not availing, the *Lap. Prunel.* was ſometimes interpoſed, and a *Calomel* Bolus, taken at Night, was worked off by a Sena Potion next Day: This Method, and afterwards Powders of *Lap. Prunel.* and *Cinnab. Antim.* taken in Honey, mitigated thoſe Pains. But from *February* 3. to *April* 4. ſometimes nephritic Pains, intermitting Fever, pleuritic Pains, and Strangury, inordinately afflicted him, notwithſtanding the Uſe, according to the ſaid Indications, of carminative, terebinthinate and ſaponaceous Clyſters, Purges, *Sal. Abſinth.* Draughts, repeated Bleedings, Veſicatories, the Powders and Electuary abovementioned, Opiates, *Cort. Peruv.* in an Electuary, and infuſed in Wine, *Lac Sulph.* with Aſſes Milk, *Cinnab. Antim. Millep. Gum Guaiac.* and *Pulv. e Chel.* with *Vinum Milleped.* and *Sp. Nitr. d.* On *March* 20th, *Calomel.* Gr. v. were given for Four Nights ſucceſſively, and afterwards purged off with a Sena Potion, and then continued again till the 28th, when he took another Potion.——Paregorics were uſed now-and-then at Night, and *Ung. Opodeldoc* was applied to the *Teſticle.*

*April* 4th, I firſt attended him in Conſultation, when he complained of an intolerable Pain, upon any Preſſure about the Region of the Left Kidney;

whereupon a maturating Cataplaſm was applied in the Day-time, and a Plaiſter at Night. Emulſions, Whey, and ſuch-like, were the chief Internals he uſed till *April* 8th, when crude Mercury was recommended to him, of which he took an Ounce Night and Morning, which gave ſo much Relief as to encourage the Continuance of that Medicine only to the 17th, when the Pains returning, he was bled once in Two or Three Days, to Four or Five Ounces, and treated with the ſubacid, cooling Regimen, and Paregorics, till *April* 29th, when he firſt mentioned a ſcirrhous Tumour, as big as a Hen's Egg, ſituate on the Left Maſtoid Muſcle of the Neck. Upon comparing this with the *Teſticle*, (neither of which Tumours were in the leaſt diminiſhed after Applications for that Purpoſe) it was conjectured, that either the Pancreas or Meſenteric Glands were cancerated. An Emetic of *Oxym. Scillit.* farinaceous Decoctions with Nitre, crude *Sal Armoniac*, *Oxym. Simp.* and *Diacod.* were of little or no Effect.——Afterwards continuing the Uſe of Electuaries of *Conſ. Roſ. r. Elect. Lenitiv. Balſ. Locatel. Æthiop. Min. Sperm. Cet. Ol. Amygd. d.* and the ſame with *Mercur. Alcalizat.* he became more and more emaciated, till *May* 21ſt, the Day of his Death.——

It was remarkable, that every new Medicine, except it was very heating, afforded ſome Relief for Two or Three Days.

*May* 22d, On removing the Integuments of the *Abdomen*, the *Muſculi Recti* appeared livid.——The *Omentum* was deſtitute of Fat.——The *Inteſtine* contiguous to the Left *Os Innominatum* was tinged with Green.——Nothing beſides appeared morbid in the

*Viſcera*

*Viſcera in Situ* at firſt View.——The Situation of the *Pylorus* ſeemed lower than uſual. The Colour or Texture of the Liver were not remarkably preternatural. The Spleen was of the largeſt Size, and adhered in its hinder Part ſo ſtrongly to the *Peritonæum*, that it could not be ſeparated without Laceration.——Whereupon there remained in the Place of Adheſion a thick, callous, and almoſt horny Membrane, as big as an Half-crown.——The *Pancreas* was very ſmall, and ſeemed compoſed of ſmall *Scirrhi*.——The Left Kidney was twice as big as the Right, or as its own natural Magnitude: Its Subſtance about the *Pelvis* was corroded by a ſemipurulent cancerous *Sanies*, that was in part collected between the Surface of the Kidney and its containing Bag. The internal Structure of it was not much amiſs: But the *Fomes Morbi*, the moſt ſingular and ſurpriſing *Phænomenon* in this Subject, was a Number of large conglobate, ſteatomatous, cancerated Glands, reaching from the *Receptaculum Chyli* to the loweſt *Vertebræ* of the Loins, ſo connected together as to repreſent a *Pancreas* affixed to the *Vertebræ* of the Loins, and upper anterior Part of the Left *Pſoas* Muſcle: It was Four times as large as his *Pancreas*, and as big as the Right or ſound Kidney. ——The *Aorta deſcendens* pervaded the Middle of this preternatural Subſtance Lengthways.——From this Maſs, as a Fountain, flowed that cancerous Sanies, which had made its Way to the Left Kidney, and alſo corroded the ſuperior carneous Part of the Left *Pſoas major*, and *Iliacus internus*, ſo that one might eaſily rend their gangrened Fleſh like rotten Linen. ——Some of this green *Ichor* collected near the *Os*

*In-*

*Innominatum* had laid the Spine of it quite bare. The Left ſpermatic Veſſels were knotty, tumefied, and livid——The meſenteric Glands were ſcirrhous. The deſcending Trunk of the *Aorta* was ſmaller than uſual; and, dividing it, we extracted a ſmall *Polypus*. ——The Examination of the other Cavities was not permitted. ——

II.

*January* 11. 1735-6.

*Thomas Trinder*, a Taylor, living at *Windſor*, in his 29th Year, was of a pale Complexion, with red Hair, of a middle Stature, and thin Habit, addicted to ſmoaking from Morning to Night, and now-and-then to hard drinking. Eight Years before his Death, he was thrown in Wreſtling, ſo as to pitch the Small of his Back upon the Corner of a Chair, by which at firſt he was much hurt in that Part; but upon the Abatement of his Pain, he became from that time ſubject to Fits of the Colic, in which he ſaid his Bowels ſeemed to be drawn to his Back-bone, and uſually received Eaſe by binding his Waiſt as tight as he could.——He had alſo frequent recourſe to Geneva and ſuch Liquors for Relief, but ſeldom found any, till a Swelling, as big as a Hen's Egg, appeared like a Rupture in his Right Groin. Theſe Fits were not of above 24 Hours Duration, but the inguinal Tumor laſted Two or Three Days. He was often afflicted with Stitches under his Left Breaſt, which were removed by Bleeding.

But in the Middle of *November* 1735. his Colic became ſo violent, that he could not lie in his Bed, nor ſleep without Opiates.——*November* 21. I found him

him in the Uſe of ſome carminative Pills ſent by an Apothecary. He had frequent Reachings to vomit, and was very coſtive. His Pains ſeemed confined to the inteſtinal Region, and were moſt acute in the Evening, continuing to haraſs him till Five or Six in the Morning. His Pulſe beat ſeldom under an Hundred in a Minute, at Night generally above. He was not very hot, nor thirſty. His Urine at this Time was rather defective in Quantity, than amiſs in reſpect of Colour or Separation.——His Tongue was foul towards the Root, but not very white.——Upon his taking *Ipecacuan.* ʒſs. and after its Operation a *Sal. Abſinth.* Draught, with *Syr.* and *Tinct. Rhabarb.* ā ʒij, and the plentiful Uſe of *Infuſ. Sem. Lini,* Barley-water, Broths, and Clyſters of Whey, Oil, and Honey, his Reachings ceaſed, and the Pains deſcended from the *Epigaſtrium* to the *Hypogaſtrium.* On *November* 24th, a Potion of *Tinct. Rhabarb. cum Vino* ℥iij. *Elix. pp. Helm.* ʒj. *Sal. Abſinth.* ϶ſs. and Two purgative Clyſters, one of which had *Terebinth* ℥ſs *cum Vitel. Ov.* not procuring a Stool, he took a Bolus of *Calomel* ʒſs *& Camphor.* gr. xij. *h. ſ.* and the next Day his Pains continued, though he had ſeveral Dejections from the Cathartic. Bleeding was omitted hitherto, becauſe he had ℥x. of Blood taken away a Week before this Paroxyſm; but now, upon loſing ſo much Blood more, he found immediate Relief. His Blood was very ſizy.

After this, his Diſorder reſembled a Nephritic one, his chief Complaint being of Pain about the Region of the Kidneys, and along the Deſcent of the Ureters. From *November* 26th, upon the Uſe of an oily *Linctus* and *Manna, Sal. Abſinth.* Draughts and

and Nitre, Clyſters as well as Drinks of Whey and Honey, with Paregorics, and repeated Bleeding, the Pain, removing from the Loins, fixed itſelf at the *Os Pubis*, and in the Thighs, *November* 29. but by the Uſe of Emulſions with Gum Arabic and Nitre, the Pain about the *Pubis* abated, and moſtly afflicted the Left Thigh and Hip. From this Time he generally ſat up in his Bed, leaning forward to the Left, and for the moſt part croſs-legged, finding himſelf eaſieſt in this Poſture. He could not lie any time on his Right Side.——The Quantity, Colour, and Sediment of his Urine, were much the ſame now as when he was in Health.——It was made without the Pain, which, ſoon after the nephritic Symptoms commenced, he complained of at the Root of the *Penis*. And now his Diſorder reſembled the *Lumbago* and *Sciatica*, affecting the Left Side moſtly: Whereupon, *December* 2d, he was put in the Uſe of a diuretic and aperient Electuary, with *Terebinthinate* Clyſters.——To this Time he had very few Stools without Clyſters, and thoſe generally very ſmall and fetid. *December* 5th, the Fever and Pain increaſing, a cooling aperient Apozem, with a paregoric Draught *pro re nata*, were continued till *December* 9th, when examining the Thigh where the Pain now afflicted him moſt, I found ſome ſmall *Scirrhi* in the Groin, which were ſenſible enough to the Touch, though not to the Sight; and from that Time, apprehending him of a ſcrophulous Habit, preſcribed as follows: ℞ *Myrrh. Milleped. Suc. Glycyrrhiz. Terebinth. Venet. Pil. Matth.* ā ℈j. *Balſ. Gilead.* ℈ſs *Diacod. q. ſ. f. Pilulæ* N° xx. *Capiat* ij *tertiis horis cum Sero Lactis*, which giving Relief, were re-

repeated, only exchanging *Pil. Matth. gr.* viij. for *Ol. Anis. gtt* v. and continued to *December* 12th, when his Pains returned violently, and he coughed up clotted Matter, not unlike the *Parenchyma* of the Lungs abraded, with a little Blood. His Breath became fetid, his Reſpiration troubled, and he complained of Thirſt. He uſed oily paregoric Draughts to the 15th, about which Time he was ſeized with ſo violent a pleuritic Pain, in the Middle of the Night, that it was thought he muſt have expired, had not about ℥x of Blood been taken away immediately, upon which the Pain ſoon removed from the Side, and attacked him there but for a few Minutes afterwards. The Blood continued as ſizy as ever. In the Evenings, when his Pains were moſt vehement, he had been ſometimes delirious.

*December* 18th, he firſt told me of a Tumor he had diſcovered near the Navel, ſince I ſaw him on the 15th. It appeared not as he ſat, but when laid on his Back, there was a Protuberance bigger than a Turkey's Egg, Four Fingers Breadth on the Left Side of the Navel, extending Two above it, and Four below it. By its Situation, Reſiſtance to Preſſure, and the Unevenneſs that from under the Skin was communicated to the Touch, its diſappearing when he was in an erect Poſture, and its not being diminiſhed by diſcutient Fomentations, it was judged to be a ſcirrhous Tumor, which had long exiſted there unobſerved by the Patient, till it increaſed too much to be longer undiſcovered.——The *Emplaſt. de Ran. & cum Mercur.* was applied outwardly; and concluding there was an internal Cancer, I was encouraged, from the preceding Caſe, to order him *Hydrargyr.*

℥j every Morning.——Whereupon there was ſuch a Remiſſion of his Pains, that during almoſt a Fortnight, he got more Reſt without Opiates than before with them; inſomuch that being greatly revived, and regaining ſome Appetite, he got down Stairs Two or Three times. Thinking the Plaiſter increaſed his Pain, Indigo blue Linen was applied in its room. The Mercury came away by Stool, and he had now one almoſt every Day, and ſometimes twice a Day, without a Clyſter.——His chief Drink was Milk and warm Water.——His grand Complaint now was of a moſt troubleſome *Cardialgia*, eſpecially when he lay down, which was ſomewhat mitigated by Powders of *Cret. Britan. cum pauxillo Sal. Abſinth.* From the firſt Uſe of the Mercury he ſeemed on the mending hand, till after about 12 Days, when omitting it for a few Days, he relapſed into his former or a worſe Condition; and though he was ſomewhat eaſier on the Repetition of it, the good Effects laſted not long.——He drooped daily from the 4th of *January*, and on the 13th died, emaciated and almoſt *exanguis*.

Upon Diſſection, nothing preternatural appeared in the Integuments, abdominal Muſcles, or *Peritoneum* immediately under them.——But under all theſe, where the Protuberance had been obſerved, and immediately under the *Omentum*, (which was deſtitute of Fat, and its lower Part was mortified) there came in View an anomalous Subſtance *in Situ*, ſeemingly as big as a very large Potatoe; which, when the circumambient *Viſcera* were removed, was found to be a ſcirrhous, fungous, cancerated Excreſcence, rooted, as it were, to the Left Side of the

*Ver-*

*Vertebræ*, quite from the *Diaphragm* down to the *Pelvis*, of a monſtrous Bulk, occupying near one half of the *Abdomen*, lying like a Tortoiſe with its Head towards the *Pelvis*, and its Back to the *Umbilicus*. It was in the upper Part covered by and firmly cohered with the *Colon*, which in the whole Contiguity was black and mortified. It was ſtrongly attached to the *Peritoneum* on the Left Side of the *Lumbal Vertebræ*, having diſplaced the Left Kidney, and brought it forwards to the Left Side of the Navel, ſo that it came in View as ſoon as the *Omentum* was removed. It likewiſe removed the *Aorta deſcendens*, the Left Emulgent, and Meſeraic Veſſels, quite out of their natural Situation; all of which were found pervading the Centre, nearly, of this Excreſcence, and ſmaller than natural.——It adhered to the Kidney ſtrongly where the emulgent Veſſels enter it, and it had detruded moſt of the ſmall Guts into the *Pelvis*.——Nothing was preternatural in the Stomach or Spleen, excepting that the latter, as well as the Left Kidney, ſeemed paler than uſual, and this Kidney alſo more flaccid: The Gall-bladder was ſhrunk to the Size of a Nutmeg, and empty.——The Liver had a preternatural Lobule, as big as a Hazel-nut, adhering to it by a ſmall Pedicle. But otherwiſe all theſe *Viſcera*, as well as the Right Kidney, Bladder, *&c.* diſcovered nothing morbid.——

This cancerated Excreſcence could not be eradicated without Laceration, and upon the Removal of it, Two or Three large Trunks of Nerves appeared naked, paſſing over the *Iliacus internus* to the Thigh, which had been compreſſed by this Tumor. The

Weight of this Excreſcence was ℔iv + ℥xiv; and allowing for what remained upon Laceration, and the Effuſion upon cutting into it, it doubtleſs exceeded ℔v. Upon Biſection, it appeared to the Depth of half an Inch from its Surface black and gangrened, and, below that, it was all ſpongy, with Cavities as large as thoſe of an Honeycomb; and from it had iſſued a cancerous Sanies, draining to the *Pelvis*.

Upon opening the *Thorax*, the Right Lobe of the Lungs was full of ſcirrhous cancerated Tubercles, from whence a Sanies had flowed betwixt it and the *Pleura:* The Left Lobe was much ſmaller than the Right, firmly attached to the *Pleura* and *Mediaſtinum*, and inſeparable without Dilaceration.——It had ſome Tubercles alſo. The Heart appeared ſound, but a large *Polypus* was taken out of its Right Ventricle, at the Orifice of the *Arteria Pulmonalis*.——

Another Caſe occurred to me cotemporary with the firſt of theſe, and ſo like to both of them in the antecedent Cauſe and Symptoms, that, could I have obtained Leave to inſpect the Corpſe, I am perſuaded ſome ſuch immediate Cauſe would have diſcovered itſelf.——Crude Mercury was the only Medicine in this Caſe alſo, that palliated for about Ten Days ſucceſſively.

But to what Purpoſe ſo particular a Relation of Caſes confeſſedly incurable? It is replied, That in unſucceſsful Caſes an accurate Diagnoſtic tends not a little to the Reputation of the Phyſician, and his Science, although thereupon he pronounces the Caſe incurable by all the known Methods of regular Practitioners—— Eſpecially as this Caſe is very likely

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to be miſtaken at firſt for an Arthritic Diſorder, or a Nephritic one, either from Ulcer, *Calculus*, or both, or for an *Iliac Paſſion*.

The Diagnoſtics therefore of a Cancer within the *Abdomen*, deduced from the preceding Hiſtories, ſeem to be as follows:

A naturally ſlender Habit of Body, accompanied with ſome ſcrophulous or ſcirrhous Tumor, together with a pale Complexion, and coſtive Diſpoſition: If ſuch an one, at an Age above Twenty, has received a violent Contuſion on the Loins, and, neglecting all Remedies, is ſome time afterwards attacked with exceſſive Pains, afflicting now the *Colon*, then the urinary Paſſages, Spine of the *Os Innominatum*, and *Pubes*, at various times, always increaſed by all Internals or Externals, by which the Heat of the Body is increaſed, eſpecially *Terebinthinate* Clyſters; but mitigated by ſome Singularity of Poſture, in which the Patient conſtantly abides; if theſe be attended with an Hectic Fever, without the uſual Degree of Heat in the Skin, of Whiteneſs or Dryneſs of Tongue, or Complaint of Thirſt, and alſo without Cough, high-coloured Urine, or vitiated Reſpiration; if accompanied likewiſe with an Affection of the ſpermatic Veſſels, of the Thighs, and frequent pleuritic Pains; the Blood always abounding with tough Size; if Opiates ſoon loſe their Effect, and only (as all other new Remedies not heating) ſeem to give Relief for Two or Three Days; if Cathartics take Place, and by frequent Repetition do not produce a colliquative *Diarrhœa*, and the moſt palliative Remedies are nitrous Salts and Mercurial; may it not be concluded with much Probability, that ſuch a Caſe is owing to ſome ſuch Cauſe? May it not be pronounced an internal Cancer?

III. *Ener-*